

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 01284 141919Z

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 SAJ-01

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R 141602Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7463

INFO AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

UNCLAS ATHENS 1284

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, GR

SUBJECT: MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN SPRING

1. FOLLOWING TWO DAYS OF EXTENDED DEBATE PARLIAMENT APPROVED ON FEBRUARY 13 GOVERNMENT PROPOSED BILL TO CONDUCT MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS THIS SPRING, PROBABLY IN APRIL. BILL PROVIDES FOR DIRECT VOTING FOR MAYORALTY AND CITY COUNCIL CANDIDATES WITH ABSOLUTE MAJORITY REQUIRED FOR MAYORS. MINIMUM AGE FOR CANDIDATES IS 25 YEARS OLD. PARLIAMENT TURNED DOWN BID BY UNITED LEFT AND PASOK TO LOWER VOTING AGE FROM 21 TO 18. ALTHOUGH FULL DETAILS OF BILL NOT YET DISCLOSED, GOVERNMENT APPARENTLY ALSO CARRIED ITS POINT THAT MINIMUM DISCRIMINATION IN THE LAW SHOULD BE EXERCISED AGAINST MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS WHO SERVED DURING JUNTA ERA, AND MANY OF THESE OFFICIALS MAY FILE TO BE CANDIDATES

2. BILL IS MUTE ON ISSUE OF HOW PARTISAN POLITICS WILL ENTER MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS. NEW DEMOCRACY SPOKESMAN HAVE ALREADY ANNOUNCED THAT THEIR PARTY WILL NOT ENDORSE CANDIDATES AND FORMER CONSERVATIVE MAYOR OF ATHENS, GEORGE PLYTAS, HAS ANNOUNCED HIS CANDIDACY ON NON-PARTISAN BASIS. LEFT AND, PROBABLY, PASOK WILL USE THEIR LOCAL PARTY MACHINERY TO SUPPORT CERTAIN CANDIDACIES ON SELECTIVE BASIS IN TOWNS AND CITIES.

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 01284 141919Z

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Message Attributes

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